

**Next Meeting: March 1, 2006
10:00 a.m. – Michigan Education Association**

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 1, 2006 Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Present: Cindy Anderson, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Mike Beach, Patt Clement, Julie Daggett-Lawrence (for Patricia Keller), Cheryl Ervin, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Donna Herrle, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Linda Keway (for Ric Hogerheide), Dara Knill, Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Jerry Oermann, David Overly, Susan Peters, Anne Richardson, Chuck Saur, Jeff Siegel, Richard Spring, Barbara Stork, Deb Todd, Jan VanGasse, Julie Winkelstern, Michael Yocum
Ex-Officio Members: Lynn Boza, Mark Larson, Michele Robinson, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Gloria Anderson, Susan Backman, Sheri Falvay, Lee Martin, Julie Shore, Colette Ward

OSE/EIS Staff: Kathy Barker, Lauren Harkness, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Dan Wilson

Guests: Michelle Driscoll, Maggie Kolk, Sandi Laham, Jon Wurdock

Immediate Past Chairperson Patt Clement called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the February 1, 2006 meeting was considered. An information item from the bylaws ad hoc committee was added. The agenda was approved as amended.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the January 4, 2006 meeting were considered. Hearing no amendments, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

Lauren Harkness reminded the group that she worked on the development of the magistrate system. They are now building a training program for the system. Lauren requested that the SEAC provide input regarding recommendations of training materials and presenters in the areas of student need, testing, and school program and operations. She provided a handout that explains the request and contains her contact information. Lauren needs responses by February 15. Amanda will send an electronic copy of Lauren's handout to the SEAC listserv.

Member Issues

Richard Spring asked if districts lose money as a result of failing special education monitoring. Jacquelyn Thompson explained that auditing exceptions can result in losing money, but monitoring wouldn't unless there are particular issues that require sanctions according to IDEA 2004. In that event, federal funding would be withheld until the issue is corrected.

Darlene Heard-Thomas raised a question about the Governor's Education Summit. Fran Loose stated that it is scheduled for March 27 and the focus would be on high school reform. There is a Department planning committee including representatives from National Governor's Association Grant as well as from the Department of Education. Jacquelyn elaborated that there has been an annual Governor's Education Summit since the Engler administration. It is a one-day conference with invited speakers and breakout sessions. The invitation goes to school board members, principals, etc. Jeff Siegel explained that it is an opportunity to understand the vision of the Governor rather than a dialogue. Discussion followed.

Jerry Oermann mentioned that subcommittees are targeting specific State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators. He wondered why only a few of the indicators are targeted this year within the work of the subcommittees? Patt Clement responded that those indicators were targeted as a result of discussion at the fall retreat. Jeff mentioned that the group is also providing input on some of the targets. Jacquelyn answered that the SEAC's functions are very linked to advising the Department. The SEAC has a defined role in the improvement plan; some other indicators may have importance to individuals within the SEAC, but for now these indicators are the focus of the group. She expects future opportunities to occur annually for the SEAC to provide input as was done in November's meeting. In addition, she reminded the group that the SPP may be altered as time passes and that the SEAC will have future input.

Chairperson's Report – Patt Clement

A. Chairperson absences

Chairperson Ric Hogerheide and Vice Chairperson Colette Ward were unable to attend today's meeting, so immediate past Chairperson Patt Clement will chair the meeting in their absence.

B. Nominations for the executive committee

Nominations for the 2006-07 executive committee should be made in subcommittees today.

State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

A. State Board of Education Meeting

The State Board of Education meets on February 14. The Board spent a day and a half on a retreat last week with the superintendent, so Jacquelyn expects an update at the February meeting concerning the Board's priorities for the next few years. She will report back to the SEAC at next month's meeting. There are no special education-related action items on the February agenda, but there is an information item concerning the need for State Board appointments for open SEAC Member At-Large seats.

B. IDEIA 2004 Reauthorization Activities

The SPP has made it through the first of three levels of federal review with commendation. Cheryl Ervin asked if the SPP organizational chart handed out in November is still accurate. Jacquelyn responded that while the indicators have not changed, those teams were for writing the SPP. Different teams are being formed for the implementation process.

Kathy Barker presented on SPP indicator #4 (suspension/expulsion). There are two foci within the indicator: 1) the number of special education students suspended or expelled for more than ten cumulative days, and 2) how race affects the data. The Department only has data on students with disabilities because law does not mandate collection of data on general education students. The Department can only collect data mandated by law.

Data showed that 38.3% of districts reported that they had students suspended or expelled in excess of ten cumulative days; 61.7% reported zero students or did not report at all. This doesn't mean that 61.7% of districts didn't have any suspensions or expulsions, but that either no students were suspended or expelled for more than ten days or the data was simply not reported. Next, the Department took this data to colleagues at Wayne State University to determine what is significant with regard to discrepancy. The result was 9.24% of those districts reporting excesses

were determined significant. No data was previously collected with regard to race and ethnicity, but it will be collected going forward. It was determined that once the data is available, a risk ratio greater than or equal to 2.0 will be defined as significant. Anytime a student is removed from the educational setting, either in school or out of school, it counts as a suspension. Discussion followed.

Kathy displayed the targets for the next five years set for this indicator. The Department needs to make sure that the data received from districts is accurate so that something can be done to help those districts that are not meeting the targets. The Department is discussing implementing random verification visits to ISDs in order to validate data. Sanctions would be issued to any district found reporting inaccurate data. Discussion followed.

C. MDE OSE/EIS Activities

The OSE/EIS management team met with the other north central states in St. Louis last week. The SPPs from all nine states were compared with the assistance of the North Central Regional Resource Center. Iowa took the twenty indicators and collapsed them into six primary questions called the "conceptual framework." Michigan will adopt them for in-house work. The Michigan team spent another fifteen hours creating the Michigan implementation strategy. On January 31, the expanded leadership team, including the coordinators, met offsite to work on integrating improvement activities and assigning them in pieces to various areas within the organization in order to assure follow-up is completed.

Teams will be identified from OSE/EIS to participate in conferences put together by resource centers nationally, focusing on issues such as post-secondary outcomes and disproportionality.

Information Items

A. Recommend additional organizations for the membership of SEAC

Beverly Baroni-Yeglic explained that a bylaws ad hoc committee was created to recommend organizations to fill new seats created after the September 2005 approval of the legislation expanding the SEAC. She explained that the two seats that were previously shared were split, filling two of the new expansion seats. The ad hoc committee recommended filling the other two seats with the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (MASCD). Originally the group was considering splitting a seat between secondary school principals and elementary school principals but decided against creating another shared seat. It was determined that middle school was the voice most needed at this time, so secondary school principals was chosen. Jacquelyn elaborated that the SEAC's approved recommendations will go to the State Board, who will ultimately make the decision.

Action Items

None

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education – Mark Larson – Mark reported that he meets with the Institutions of Higher Education monthly. He explained that they are learning about the SPP indicators in their meetings just like the SEAC. Their table has expanded this year because of smaller universities gaining special education programs.

Michigan Department of Community Health – Sheri Falvay – None

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services – Lynn Boza – None

Department of Human Services – Lee Martin – None

Michigan Department of Corrections – Michele Robinson – None

Committee Reports

A. High School Transformation – Deb Todd

The subcommittee intends to compose a white paper describing the unintended consequences of high school transformation. The following topics will be addressed in the paper:

- How to manage change so there are positive outcomes and opportunity to integrate what we know and learn to achieve high standards for all students
- How to take advantage of “this perfect storm” - we need to seize the opportunity to make positive change
- How to link our ideas and findings back to State Performance Plan

In order to learn from the experiences of others, the group decided to survey the SEAC membership to determine what, if anything, their organizations were doing with regard to high school transformation. Three questions were posed to the SEAC via the listserv; 1) Does your organization have a work group or committee on High School Reform, 2) Does your organization have position paper or statement on High School Reform, and 3) what planned activities does your organization have around the topic of High School Reform? (i.e., work groups, conferences, etc)?

Deb stated that responses were few and seemed to indicate that some organizations might be uninformed. Richard Spring stated that it is difficult for an organization to come up on a position on an item that is as new as

high school transformation; therefore, responding to the subcommittee's survey could be difficult. His organization is waiting for more information on what may be expected prior to developing such a statement. Michael Yocum clarified that there is a House bill that is being rewritten and the Senate does not have a bill written yet. He stated that time is of the essence in order to have input on those bills. Discussion followed.

B. Post-Secondary Outcomes – Chuck Saur

The group has a new proposed goal statement: assure that there is an alignment between current IDEA 2004 language for transition focus within current educational practice and structures. The group also seeks further definition of results and outcomes and any other terms related to the statutes in indicators 13 and 14. One major concern of the subcommittee is the alignment of practice for both indicators. The group is also discussing a definition of "course of study;" where does it begin? If there is a starting point, what is the end point of instruction for students with IEPs?

C. Suspension/Expulsion – Paul Kubicek

The subcommittee changed their outcome slightly; they promote a reduction of suspension and expulsion, but recognize that there are times when it is in the best interest for other students and their learning. The group plans to identify factors that contribute to suspension and expulsions, both pro and con. Data on suspension and expulsion is only collected on special education students; Jacquelyn has suggested that the subcommittee discuss whether collecting data on general education students may also prove useful.

Member Announcements

Chuck Saur reminded the group that the Michigan Transition Services Association conference is held in Frankenmuth March 15, 16, and 17. The deadline for registration is March 1.

Future Agenda Consideration

Paul Kubicek noted that there has been discussion of providing a summary of the Michigan Integrated Behavioral Learning Support Initiative (MI-BLISI) data. He felt it would be useful.

Disproportionality and Least Restrictive Environment SPP indicators will be presented at the March meeting.

Process Check

Beverly Baroni-Yeglic commented that Jacquelyn's comments throughout the meeting were helpful to the process. Anne Richardson mentioned that subcommittee reports were valuable. Susan Peters suggested that

subcommittee notes be shared with the Committee of the Whole. Cheryl Ervin suggested that each subcommittee provide Quick Notes to the group. Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned to subcommittees.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of February 1, 2006 Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: Patt Clement, Paul Kubicek, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Chuck Saur, Jacquelyn Thompson, Deb Todd, Dan Wilson

Absent: Ric Hogerheide, Patricia Keller, Colette Ward

Review of Today's Agenda

Kathy Barker will present today on indicator #4 (suspension/expulsion).

There is an information item to be added to the agenda from the bylaws ad hoc committee. It is a recommendation for two organizations to fill the last two seats created when the SEAC expansion bill was approved in September 2005. Beverly Baroni-Yeglic will present the item to the Committee of the Whole. The executive committee began a discussion regarding how to fit the two new organizations into the defined member rotation chart but it was tabled for later discussion.

Lauren Harkness will address the Committee of the Whole regarding a need for input from the SEAC concerning the magistrate system.

State Department Report

Jacquelyn Thompson will give today's State Department Report.

Subcommittee Reports

A. High School Reform – Deb Todd

The Dagget tapes will be played during lunch. Bob Hove will bring a summary report on the Cherry Commission for the subcommittee. Sandi Laham sent a survey to the listserv to determine how the organizations are involved in high school transformation. The responses will be discussed at today's meeting but it seemed that many people are uninformed. Discussion followed.

B. Post-Secondary Outcomes – Chuck Saur

The subcommittee is seeking perspectives on words used in indicators 13 and 14. Definitions varied among members for words such as "youth," and "suitable." The group is discussing the potential need for a guide or manual with regard to transition and the vocabulary in the indicators.

C. Suspension/Expulsion/Bullying/Intimidation – Paul Kubicek

The subcommittee slightly changed their outcomes at last month's meeting. The group still seeks to reduce suspension and expulsion but also recognizes that at times it is necessary. The subcommittee brainstormed contributing factors, both pro and con, for students leaving school. They hope Kathy Barker will be able to participate in today's subcommittee meeting. Jacquelyn suggested the subcommittee discuss whether there is a need for data on the suspension and expulsion of general education students. Current law requires collection of data only for special education students; therefore, data on general education cannot be collected. Jacquelyn also suggested inviting Bob Harris or Leisa Gallagher to speak on health issues with the subcommittee.

Future Agenda Development

The SPP indicators presented in March will be those related to disproportionality and least restrictive environment. Beth Steenwyk, Jacquelyn or Kathy will present.

Other Issues

None